

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN NODS-00

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DRAFTED BY NEA/PAB:MHORNBLOW:DE
APPROVED BY NEA:JMIKLOS
EUR/WE:MLISSFELT
S/AS:BKELLY
T/D:DWELCH
PM/NPP:ALOCKE
NEA/P:RUNDELAND
S/S-O :SGOLDSMITH

-----090060 040510Z /10

P 040418Z AUG 78 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 196860

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MNUC, TECH, PAK, FR, US

SUBJECT: REPROCESSING, PRESS GUIDANCE

1. FOLLOWING IS CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT
WILL USE IN RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS ON POSSIBLE PRESS
ACCOUNTS THAT FRANCE WILL NO LONGER PARTICIPATE IN PAK
REPROCESSING PLANT.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENTS ON PRESS REPORTS THAT THE
FRENCH WILL NOT GO AHEAD WITH THE REPROCESSING PLANT IN
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PAKISTAN?

A: WE DO NOT WISH TO COMMENT ON THESE REPORTS. WE OF
COURSE ARE CONCERNED WITH NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT THROUGHOUT
THE WORLD BUT THIS IS AN ISSUE ESSENTIALLY BETWEEN FRANCE
AND PAKISTAN.

Q: IS THE REPORT TRUE? HAVEN'T WE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH BOTH THE FRENCH AND THE PAKISTANIS ON THIS MATTER?

A: SINCE THIS INVOLVES PRIMARILY THE FRENCH AND PAKISTANI

A: SINCE THIS INVOLVES PRIMARILY THE FRENCH AND PAKISTANI GOVERNMENTS WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT APPROPRIATE TO COMMENT. WE OF COURSE HAVE DISCUSSED NUCLEAR REPROCESSING WITH BOTH GOVERNMENTS.

Q: BUT THE US MUST HAVE AN OPINION ON THE REPORTED CANCELLATION. WHAT IS THE US VIEW?

A: WE HAVE STATED OUR POLICY ON NON-PROLIFERATION MANY TIMES. WE ARE OPPOSED TO THE PREMATURE COMMERCIALIZATION OF REPROCESSING AND THE SPREAD OF NATIONAL REPROCESSING FACILITIES. VANCE

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NNN

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